

**COUNCIL ON MENTALLY ILL OFFENDERS (COMIO)**

<http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/comio/index.html>

**MINUTES**

**November 21, 2013**

**LOCATION: 1515 S. Street, Kern Conference Room, North Building  
Sacramento, CA 95814**

**IN ATTENDANCE AT 1515 S. Street, Kern Room**

**COMIO Council Members**

- **Vice Chairperson:** Manuel J. Jimenez, Jr., Director, Sonoma County Mental Health
- David Lehman, Chief Probation Officer (Ret), Humboldt County (via conf line)
- Patrick Dwyer, Law Enforcement Consultant, Santa Clara County
- Charles L. Walters, Ph.D., Law Enforcement Consultant, Orange County
- Mark Grabau, California Department of State Hospitals, representing Cliff Allenby, Acting Director

**CDCR Staff**

- Tim Belavich, Ph.D, Director (A), Division of Health Care Services (DHCS), and Deputy Director (A), Statewide Mental Health Program, DHCS, CDCR
- Alicia Aguilar, Statewide Mental Health Program, DHCS, CDCR
- Fu Yiu, Statewide Mental Health Program, DHCS, CDCR
- Tom Gilevich, Assistant Chief Counsel, Office of Legal Affairs, CDCR
- Robert Storms, Executive, Division of Adult Parole Operations, CDCR
- Virginia Steele-Pirie, RN, Nursing Consultant, Statewide Mental Health Program, DHCS, CDCR

**Interested Parties**

- Joseph V. A. Partansky, Advocate for Persons with Disabilities
- Molly Willenbring, Executive Director, Forensic Mental Health Association of California
- Brenda Grealish, Chief, Mental Health Services Division, California Department of Health Care Services

**AGENDA ITEM 1 -Introduction/Welcome – Vice-Chair**

The meeting was called to order at 11:15am. Introductions and welcoming were done by Manuel Jimenez.

**AGENDA ITEM 2 – Adoption of Minutes (September 26, 2013)**

Minutes from the September 26th meeting were reviewed and adopted.

**AGENDA ITEM 3 – Old Business**

**a) COMIO Web Page Update Follow Up**

There was a discussion regarding updating the COMIO web page. The Council requests that the website to be updated and maintained on a continuous basis. The Council also requests the current Council members' information and other most updated meeting materials to be uploaded to the webpage. Ms. Fu Yiu (Yoyo) stated that meeting agendas and minutes are up-to-date. This item will remain on the agenda for the next meeting.

**b) Request For A Permanent Executive Director for COMIO**

There was a discussion regarding the letter that the vice chairperson sent to Secretary Beard requesting a permanent executive director from CDCR. Secretary Beard sent a responding letter on November 21, 2013, stating CDCR currently is unable to identify any existing funds that may be used to fund or provide a permanent full time executive director position but CDCR is able to dedicate an additional support staff position to assist COMIO in its needs.

- **Patrick Dwyer**-Stated that a part time position can be appointed if a full time permanent position is not available.
- **David Lehman**- Questioned when will be the next budget proposal for the full time position.

- **Tim Belavich**-In response to Mr. Lehman question, Dr. Belavich stated that currently CDCR has no funding for neither full time nor part time position; there is no budget changes, the next proposal change will be in the fiscal years of 2015.
- **Grealish Brenda**- Stated that it would not be an issue of funding a full time or part time position; COMIO is requesting a dedicate person who has leadership skills to assist COMIO in its needs.
- **Charles Walters**- Addressed that we (the Council) need someone who has specific background and leadership skills to assist COMIO accomplishing statutory mandates.
- **Patrick Dwyer**-Stated that can be just a part time basis, such as contract with DSH, HCS, or retired annuitant.

A motion was made by council members that Mr. Manuel Jimenez, vice Chair of COMIO writes a letter in response to Secretary Bread's letter addressing the issues above.

### **AGENDA ITEM 3 – New Business**

#### **a) Identify the Structures of How to Accomplishing Statutory Mandates**

There was a discussion regarding identify accomplishing statutory mandates. Mr. Manuel Jimenez reviewed the COMIO statutory mandates. The main goal for COMIO is to identify and make suggestions for preventing individuals with mental illness from entering or re-entering the criminal justice system. There were few suggestions regarding how to accomplish statutory mandates. These suggestions include Mr Manuel Jimenez to write a letter to Post Law Enforcement Training Office for mental health training standard, identify mental health training and standard enforcement in jails, juvenile halls, and CDCR, identify strategies to cut down cost, and identify cost effective programs for prevent individuals with mental health needs from becoming offenders by utilize current studies, in which can be but not limited to studies that done by forensic graduate students/fellows.

#### **b) Invitation of California Youth Correction Representative to COMIO Meeting**

Council Members to provide Yoyo contact information and Yoyo will contact the representative of California Youth Correction.

#### **c) Annual Report**

Mr. Thomas Gilevich stated that annual report will be ready to discuss and distribute at the January, 2014 COMIO meeting.

#### **d) Best Practices**

Ms. Molly Willenbring stated that the Forensic Mental Health Association of California (FMHAC) is willing to work with COMIO regarding Best Practices and Ms. Willenbring will send information to Yoyo. Mr. Manuel Jimenez, Mr. Mark Grabau, and Ms. Grealish Brenda have been selected to be panel reviewers for Best practices 2013. The tentative plan is once Yoyo has successfully posted the announcement on COMIO webpage, Yoyo will forward the announcement to Ms. Willenbring, and Ms. Willenbring will distribute it to her mailing list.

#### **e) Agenda items request – David Lehman**

Mr. David Lehman had few agenda items request. (1) Mr. Lehman addressed that there is ongoing discussion regarding the "Strategic Plan". The Council felt that there is a need to revise the Strategic Plan, remove outdated information by replacing accurate information. (2) Adding a designated spot on the agenda for public comments. (3) Including a COMIO Chairman report on the agenda. (4) Regular update regarding the relationship with FMHAC on the agenda. (5) Prior to each meeting, a packet of information is sent to each COMIO member for review and comment.

### **Community Comments**

1. Mr. Joseph Partansky requested adding the public comments on the meeting minutes.
2. Mr. Partansky also requested COMIO meeting agenda, time, date, location, and call in conference information to be sent to him.
3. Mr. Partansky suggested a reading to the Council and COMIO members *Assessing Judicial Sentencing preferences After Public Safety realignment: A Survey of California Judges* (2013) by Robert Weisberg and Lisa Quan.

### **Action Items**

- I. Yoyo to work with CDCR IT to remove outdated information from COMIO webpage.

- II. COMIO Council Members review the COMIO webpage and send revisions to Yoyo.
- III. Council Members review the Strategic Plan and send all comments to Yoyo.
- IV. Yoyo drafts and prepares Best Practices materials and e-mail out the Best Practices to the Chief Probation Officers and the Mental Health Directors.
- V. Best Practices Panel for 2013 has been selected. The panel members are Mr. Manuel Jimenez, Mr. Mark Grabau, and Ms. Grealish Brenda.
- VI. Yoyo is to schedule a meeting with the panel members to score the Best Practices.
- VII. Schedule a conference call with Mr. Lehman and Mr. Jimenez prior to the official COMIO meeting to prepare agenda items and packets.
- VIII. Manuel Jimenez to write a letter responding to Secretary Beard's letter.
- IX. Patrick Dwyer drafts a letter to the Post Law Enforcement Training Office in Mental Health and send to Manuel for final review. After the letter is finalized, Manuel Jimenez mail out a letter to the Post Law Enforcement Training Office for Mental Health.
- X. Manuel Jimenez to write a letter to the Fire Chief asking about their training that is done through the Community College District and to include the Division of Juvenile Justice.

#### **Next Meeting**

- 1) Discuss and follow up old business
- 2) Discuss and follow up new business
- 3) Relationship with FMHAC
- 4) Best Practices
- 5) Public Comment and Updates

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:56pm.

#### **\*Next COMIO Meeting – January 23, 2013**

1515 S Street, Sacramento, CA

Executive conference Room, 502-S, North Building